

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 9, 2011 (second day of two day Commission meeting)

**Agenda Item:** 2012 – 2013 Deer Hunting Seasons, Quota Ranges and HD Boundaries

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Approval of Proposed Rule

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 30 minutes

---

### **Background**

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for all game species. This happens every other year between December and Final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the Commission, FWP proposes existing structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances.

For the 2012 and 2013 deer season structures, the more significant proposed changes include adjustments to permits, B licenses and general license opportunities and new limited backcountry opportunities in hunting districts 240 and 250. The two-day youth deer hunt is re-proposed for the Thursday and Friday of MEA days. For the annual rotation of calendar dates, in 2013 the MEA dates will likely be the last Thursday and Friday of the statewide archery season (one week before the general rifle season). All youth and archery hunters would be required to wear hunter orange on those two days.

For other proposed changes see Commission Master List for December meeting.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Deer season comments were received during scoping and included interest in reduced harvest and additional (archery) backcountry opportunities. In addition to public comment at the Dec. 9 Commission meeting, public comment will run thru 5:00 PM Monday, Jan. 23, 2012. Any final adoptions will take place at the Feb.16, 2012 Commission meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2011 (status quo). No change would challenge the supporting justifications behind proposals.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Rationale for individual proposals have been included in Commission information packets and may be further articulated at the Dec. 9 Commission meeting.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the Commission adopt the 2012 and 2013 Deer Hunting Seasons and Hunting Districts as proposed by FWP.